श्री सभापति महोदय : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : सभापति महोदय, मैं सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूं, लेकिन दाल में काला है, यह तो मैं उनको बताऊंगा, क्योंकि मंत्री जी तो यह कहकर अलग हो गए कि कुछ तो उसमें वृद्ध थे - कुछ हिरण old age के थे, इसलिए मारे गए। सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस मामले को इतनी सहजता से स्वीकार नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। जितने भी वन्य पशु-पक्षी होते हैं, वे इस प्रकार के तूफानों के आदी होते हैं। दुनिया भर के सारे देशों में इस प्रकार के तूफान आते रहते हैं, बरसात होती रहती है, इसका अर्थ यह नहीं है कि इतनी बड़ी संख्या में हिरण मारे जाएं। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि आप सहजता से इसको स्वीकार न करके इसकी कोई पक्की जांच करें, ताकि अपराधियों को सज़ा मिल सके, क्योंकि दो हिरण मारने पर आपने उसकी हालत खराब कर रखी है, होनी चाहिए, लेकिन ये जो 75 मारे गए, क्या उसकी कोई जांच नहीं होगी?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I have already given an assurance a few minutes ago that there will be an inquiry into this by the Wildlife Institute of India, a Dehradun-based institution of the Government of India. I want to assure the hon. Member that there will. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री बलबीर पुंज : अब तक तो इन्क्वायरी का जवाब आ जाना चाहिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... By now, it should. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Why didn't the State Government itself ask for an inquiry into this? ...*(Interruptions)*... They should have also done it. ...*(Interruptions)*... राजस्थान की सरकार इतनी insensitive क्यों है? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, as the Minister, I take the full responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am ordering an inquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : जब हम चर्चा करते हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)... हिरन मारे जाते हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति : आपने सवाल पूछ लिया है।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, there should have been an inquiry. The fact is that this question has sensitised me. I did not know about this incident till this question came to my notice. This morning, I asked for an inquiry by the Wildlife Institute of India. I accept the fact that I should have been a little more careful when this incident occurred. But I assure the hon. Member that an inquiry will be instituted. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : पानी-तूफान तो आते ही रहेंगे ...(**व्यवधान**)... उसे कंट्रोल करना चाहिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please, we are running out of time. There are other questions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 126.

Royalty by ONGC on oil and gas

*126. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:††
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Natuji Halai Thakor.

(a) whether ONGC is required to pay royalty to the State Government of Gujarat on crude oil and gas, based on the wellhead price of crude oil, as per Government's Notifications dated 16th December, 2004, 20th August, 2007 and resolution dated 17th March, 2007;

(b) whether Government is aware that during the period from April to December, 2008, ONGC unilaterally paid royalty to the State Government on post discount prices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Gujarat Government has represented to the Central Government for payment of royalty, as per the aforesaid notifications and the resolution; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) The royalty on mineral oil in respect of commercial production from on-land areas, is required to be paid to the State Governments based on a fixed rate decided by the Central Government as percentage of the sale price of the mineral oil at the oil fields or the oil well-head, as the case may be, under the provisions of Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act (ORDA), 1948, and Notifications issued from time to time.

ONGC started making payment of royalty at post discount price from 01.04.2008 (due on 31.05.2008) in line with provisions of ORDA, 1948 and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas's decision on the subject.

The State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Union Government for payment of royalty as per pre-discount prices. On examination of the issues raised by Government of Gujarat, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has clarified to the Government of Gujarat that royalty payments made by ONGC are on the basis of crude oil price actually realized i.e. post-discount price.

श्री नतुजी हालाजी ठाकोर : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री से जानना चाहता हूं कि 16 दिसम्बर, 2004 और 20 अगस्त, 2007 की अधिसूचनाओं और 17 मार्च, 2007 के संकल्प के अनुसार तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम को कच्चे तेल के कुंओं के मुहाने पर ही कीमत के आधार पर कच्चे तेल और गैस के संबंध में गुजरात सरकार को रॉयल्टी का भुगतान करना होता है। क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि अप्रैल से दिसम्बर, 2008 की अवधि के दौरान तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस निगम ने छूट उपरांत कीमतों के आधार पर राज्य सरकार को एक पक्षीय रूप से रॉयल्टी का भुगतान किया था। यदि यह सही है तो इसके कारण क्या हैं? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: It is already, Sir, laid on the Tabie of the House. But for the hon. Member's clarification, I wish to recall that during the last year, there was unprecedented volatility in the prices of crude oil and they went up to $142 per barrel as a high and about $35 per barrel

approximately as a low. That is why in order to protect the interest of the Aam Aadmi, the Government decided to pass the minimum burden of these high prices to the consumers. Consequently, the Government and upstream Oil PSUs had to share maximum under-recovery burden. So, Sir, in the light of these incidents that happened, these royalties to particular States, such as Gujarat, Assam, Arunachal, Tamil Nadu became less and we tried to protect the interest of the Aam Aadmi and reduce the burden on them. That is why the burden-sharing fell on the upstream companies.

श्री नतुजी हालाजी ठाकोर : माननीय मंत्री जी जो जवाब दिया है, वह सब्सिडी के आधार पर दिया है लेकिन वह उनका आंतरिक मामला है। जो रॉयल्टी देने का सरकार का अभिगम है, उसमें यह बात नहीं होनी चाहिए। उससे गुजरात सरकार को 1500 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा हो रहा है। उसके संबंध में बार-बार गुजरात सरकार ने आपको अवगत कराया है लेकिन उसके बारे में अभी तक आपने कोई भी कार्य नहीं किया है। इस संबंध में आपने क्या किया है? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि गुजरात सरकार ने उपरोक्त अधिसूचनाओं और संकल्प के आधार पर रायल्टी के भुगतान के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार को अभ्यावेदन दिया है, इसके लिए सरकार ने क्या कार्रवाई की है?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Sir, as far as royalty on post-discount prices is concerned, the Central Government also took royalty on the post-discounted prices, and, as I said, because it was a year where there was a high volatility in prices and the Government was concerned with reducing the burden on the Aam Aadmi, we went in for this royalty on the post-discounted prices all across the country. The Central Government has already gone for that and same went for Gujarat, Assam; and all other States. That is why the post-discount prices were taken into account.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Corruption in judiciary

†*121. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases of corruption in judiciary are coming to the fore;

(b) whether Government has looked into such complaints; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of transparency at the time of appointments in judiciary which persists therein right from the appointment upto the retirement; and

(d) whether Government would consider to have ratification of appointments in judiciary in State courts done by the State Legislative Assemblies and in Supreme Court by Parliament?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.